

8. (Once Amended) A business method for enhancing investment in new technologies, comprising:

selecting a predetermined number of potential investors;

transmitting, to said potential investors, investment opportunities each comprising an identification of purportedly new technology and a fixed monetary amount to be exchanged in return for a predetermined unit of equity in a prospective technology development venture to develop the respective technology;

receiving bids for units of equity from at least some of said investors, the receiving of said bids for units of equity including operating a host computer to monitor messages arriving over a global computer network;

recording identities of the bidding investors and the numbers of units of equity bid;

automatically tallying total units bid; and

terminating bidding upon attainment of a predetermined number of units bid,

further comprising:

operating said host computer to monitor information arriving over said global computer network, said information describing purported advances in technology; and

selecting said prospective technology development venture from among the purported advances in technology described in the information arriving over said global computer network.

{ Amend claim 9 to read as follows: }

B1
9. (Once Amended) The method defined in claim 8 wherein the transmitting of one of said investment opportunities to said potential investors includes operating said host computer to transmit the respective identification and the respective fixed monetary amount over a global computer network to preselected computers each associated with a respective one of said potential investors.

Cancel claims 10, 11, and 14.

Amend claim 15 to read as follows:

B2
15. (Once Amended) The method defined in claim 9 wherein the automatic tallying of the total units bid includes operating said host computer to add units bid by respective ones of said bidding investors.

Cancel claim 16.

Amend claim 17 to read as follows:

B3
17. (Once Amended) The method defined in claim 9 wherein the terminating of said bidding includes operating said host computer to transmit over a global computer network a bidding termination signal to computers associated with said bidding investors.
